

SHAFTER COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PURPOSE OF INQUIRY:

The Law and Justice Committee (Committee) of the 2009-2010 Kern County Grand Jury visited the Shafter Community Correctional Facility (SCCF) on March 10, 2010, pursuant to Penal Code §919(b).

PROCESS:

The Committee met with the Police Chief (Chief), the Assistant Chief of Corrections (ACC) and other staff members. The ACC gave a brief presentation followed by an extensive tour of the facility.

BACKGROUND:

The SCCF is located at 1150 E. Ash Avenue, Shafter, California. The facility opened in 1991 and is owned and operated by the City of Shafter. The City contracts with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to house minimum security inmates. The SCCF is situated on approximately six acres and has 77,000 square feet of building space. The SCCF has eight dorms with a capacity of 70 inmates each and can house a total population of 560.

FINDINGS:

1. The SCCF operates under the Police Chief. The facility staff is comprised of one Assistant Chief of Corrections, two Correctional Lieutenants, one Vocational Sergeant, four Correctional Sergeants, three Senior Correctional Officers, 42 Correctional Officers, two Office staff, three Instructors, Canteen Supervisor, Maintenance Supervisor, Licensed Vocational Nurse and five kitchen staff.
2. The SCCF has a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The annual contract amount is \$9,058,161 and expires in 2017.
3. The SCCF provides educational and program services to the inmate population including computer applications, building/maintenance vocation, anger management, Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous. The SCCF also provides various work assignments within the facility.
4. The SCCF utilizes inmate work crews to assist other non-profit agencies. The work consists of various construction and maintenance projects. Currently the SCCF has seven contracted work crews with: four assigned to Cal-Trans, one

each assigned to the cities of Delano and Porterville and one to Cal State Bakersfield.

5. The SCCF population on the day of the visit was 521. Inmate's length of stay at the SCCF can be up to 36 months.
6. The SCCF has two control centers each monitored by a Correctional Officer visually supervising four dorms. Both control centers provide excellent visual surveillance including audio and video systems.
7. The SCCF is situated in an industrial/light manufacturing area of the City. The close proximity to other buildings has caused incidents of contraband being tossed over the facility walls. The problem will soon be rectified with the construction of a guard tower overseeing the entire yard and outside perimeter.

COMMENTS:

The SCCF staff is to be commended for designing and operating a well functioning correctional institution. Special mention and recognition is given to the Outside Work Crews Program that could serve as a model program for other county or city facilities to follow. The Kern County Board of Supervisors should visit the SCCF to see an efficiently operated correctional facility. Further information on the SCCF may be obtained on the website: www.shafter.com

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Shafter Police Department and the SCCF should post a copy of this report where it would be available for public review.

Note: Present and past Kern County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses can be accessed on the Kern County Grand web-site: www.co.kern.ca.us/grandjury

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NO RESPONSE REQUIRED